From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: gterry@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Monday Morning Memo for July 15, 2019
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Courts & Rulings

Court vacates sentence for teen gang member given life without parole

A federal appeals court vacated the sentence for a Phoenix-area gang member who was still a teen when he got a mandatory life without parole sentence for crimes that "terrorized" the Salt River reservation in the 1990s. A divided 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Tuesday that since Riley Briones Jr.'s sentencing in 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court has banned life without parole except for "the rarest" of juveniles who are permanently incorrigible - and Briones has been a model prisoner.
Cronkite News

No block on cap to temp work by retired California judges

A state judge said he won't block a lifetime limit on how long judges can continue to work after retirement, finding the cap does not disproportionally impact older judges. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ethan Schulman found the eight retired judges who moved to stop the cap from being applied retroactively "have failed to show that the lifetime cap limit has any adverse impact on retired judges because of their age, such that it would support a finding of likelihood of success on their claim of discrimination."
Courthouse News Service

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling may seem like a win for those fighting governmental seizure of property, but was it really?

Many in Connecticut still bristle over the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Kelo v. New London, which allowed the city of New London to take Suzette Kelo's "little pink house" for an economic development project that has yet to materialize. Now the Court has given local regulators like me reason to be concerned.
Hartford Courant

University did not show 'deliberate indifference' to claim of alleged rape victim - Ninth Circuit

The University of San Diego did not respond with "deliberate indifference" to a student's claim that she was raped in her dormitory, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared yesterday, over a dissent which accused school officials of permitting the destruction of evidence. The majority of a three-judge panel, in a memorandum opinion, affirmed a summary judgment granted to USD by District Court Justice Cathy Ann Bencivengo of the Southern District of California.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Jury finds Beverly Hills Police bosses were harassed at headquarters

A jury in downtown Los Angeles found in favor Tuesday of four employees of the Beverly Hills Police Department, who said they faced

harassment at work after the police chief was allegedly heard making insensitive remarks about Catholics, Hispanics, Jews, and lesbians. The employees, which include three lieutenants and another supervisor, sued after some testified in support of a former captain, who settled a discrimination lawsuit against the city and police Chief Sandra Spagnoli last year.
NBC4

Officers, city reach accord in whistleblower lawsuit
Six members of the Los Angeles Police Department's Internal Affairs Group and the city settled the plaintiffs' lawsuit alleging they were wrongfully reprimanded because a deputy chief believed they would speak in support of another IAG member who was vocal about alleged unlawful activities and nepotism by the command staff. The resolution was reached during a settlement conference on June 28 with Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ruth Kwan.
My News LA

Pasadena baby drowning death appeal won't be heard by state Supreme Court
The California Supreme Court refused Wednesday to review the case of a man convicted of his year-old daughter's drowning death in Pasadena eight years ago. Marquise Jackson was found guilty in July 2016 of first-degree murder and child abuse resulting in death in connection with the May 20, 2011, drowning of his daughter, Mo'Nayjah.
City News Service

The more, the better: San Francisco leads new kind of tax revolt
San Francisco is emerging as one of the most receptive places in the country for new taxes. In recent weeks: A pair of recent court rulings upheld locally passed tax initiatives - including one backing the city's authority to seek taxes from drivers who use paid parking lots at state universities - which could embolden tax enthusiasts in San Francisco even more.
Bloomberg Tax

Gag order not enforceable in police brutality settlement
The Fourth Circuit ruled 2-1 Thursday that Baltimore cannot buy the silence of victims of police brutality with legal settlements that include a nondisparagement clause. The lawsuit began in 2012 when Ashley Overbey, a 25-year-old black woman, called police to report a burglary. Two officers beat her up and arrested her, and after those charges were dropped she sued and settled for $63,000.
Courthouse News Service

California Appeals court sides with victims in Porter Ranch gas leak
A state appeals court panel ruled Tuesday that Porter Ranch-area residents affected by the 2015-16 Aliso Canyon natural gas leak can

seek restitution from Southern California Gas Co., but only stemming from the company's delay in reporting the leak to state regulators. The three-judge panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal remanded the issue to a Los Angeles Superior Court judge for a hearing on "whether petitioners can prove damages from the three-day delay in reporting the leak, as charged in the criminal complaint."
Los Angeles Daily News

California Supreme Court says child support counts toward welfare income limit
In a setback for families on welfare, the state Supreme Court ruled Monday that their application for benefits must include income that one parent is required to pay to support a child who lives outside the home. Lawyers for a San Mateo County household argued to the court that it was unfair to consider the child-support funds as income "reasonably anticipated to be received" by the family - the law's definition of income - because it was automatically deducted from the husband's paychecks and unemployment benefits to support three children living elsewhere.
San Francisco Chronicle

Senate confirms Trump's appointment to Ninth Circuit appeals court
President Trump's nomination of Washington, D.C., attorney Daniel Bress to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco was confirmed by the Senate on Tuesday on a party-line vote, giving Trump seven appointees to a court he has regularly denounced. On the losing side of the 53-45 vote were California's Democratic senators, Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, who noted that the seat had been held by a Californian - Alex Kozinski, who retired last December after allegations of sexual misconduct by at least 15 female staffers - and would ordinarily be filled by a Californian.
San Francisco Chronicle

Law on murder charges draws mixed rulings from Ventura County judges
Ventura County judges are split on the constitutionality of a controversial new law limiting who can be charged with murder. Cheered by prosecutors, a ruling Friday by Judge Kevin DeNoce is among many such decisions playing out in courthouses across the state as the criminal justice system grapples with Senate Bill 1437, which took effect Jan. 1.
Ventura County Star

Prosecutors/ Prosecutions

As California lawmakers cut criminal sentences, some district attorneys push back using plea deals
After the jury deadlocked in Victor Hugo Sanchez's murder trial in February, San Diego prosecutors offered him a deal: plead guilty to

manslaughter and spend just 11 years in state prison. But there was an unusual catch. As part of the agreement, Sanchez had to sign away his right to benefit from any future legal changes, including legislation or court decisions that might reduce his sentence. He agreed.
The Marshall Project

California prosecutors pushing back against new murder law
Eleven years into a possible life sentence, Brian Yang won his release from prison. It had a lot to do with where he committed his crime. Yang, 29, was convicted of murder for his role in a 2008 robbery that led to the death of a San Francisco man. A recent change to state law meant he could petition for resentencing because, although he was involved in the holdup, he was not the one who pulled the trigger.
San Francisco Chronicle

Los Angeles detective facing more than 70 charges for secretly recording men in Angel stadium restroom
A Los Angeles police detective has been charged with secretly recording men inside the restroom at Angel Stadium while he attended a game off-duty last month. Ryan Caplette is facing 75 misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, including 37 counts of peeping with intent to invade privacy, 37 counts of secretly videotaping and one count of loitering, the Anaheim Police Department said in a statement on Friday.
New York Daily News

Ex-USC gynecologist sold sex videos of young females in compromising positions, prosecutors allege
Tuesday lowered former USC campus gynecologist George Tyndall's bail from nearly $2.1 million to $1.6 million while he awaits a hearing to determine if he will have to stand trial on charges of sexually assaulting 16 patients. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Teresa Sullivan noted that Tyndall - who is due back in a downtown courtroom Friday - will be confined to his home under GPS monitoring and barred from practicing medicine if he is able to post the reduced bail amount.
NBC4

DA declines to file case against deputy who fatally shot man in Castaic
Los Angeles County prosecutors declined to file a case against a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy who fatally shot a 51-year-old man in Castaic nearly three years ago. Prosecutors determined that there was "insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt" that Deputy Jeffrey Brito used unreasonable force when he shot William Bowers after responding to a report of a vehicle theft at the Rodeway Inn on Aug. 2, 2016, according to a memorandum from the District Attorney's Office that was released Wednesday.
My News LA

Promising legal actions to stop the spread of skid row conditions:

Susan Shelley
There's good news for everyone who has watched skid row conditions spread to the sidewalks and off-ramps and freeway embankments of neighborhood after blighted neighborhood throughout California. At last, somebody's fighting back. Two legal actions are underway, challenging the disgusting pile of lawsuit settlements and court decisions that have caused this crisis.
Riverside Press-Enterprise

Prop. 57, Prop 47 & AB 109

DA Smittcamp talks gangs, stolen guns, sentencing reforms
Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp is calling for a community-wide effort to prevent children from joining gangs. She also has a message for otherwise law-abiding citizens: Lock up your guns! If you don't, they could end up used in robberies and murders. Here is what Smittcamp has to say about gangs, stolen guns, California's sentencing reforms, human trafficking, and other topics.
GV Wire

Public Safety

State bill could let homeless park junk cars in front of your house indefinitely
One of the more common reasons that people from Antelope call my office is to plead for help in getting junky/abandoned vehicles removed from the neighborhood. People will purchase cars/RVs in horrible condition for extremely cheap, run them into the ground, then leave them to rot on a residential street. Many decide to use that broken-down vehicle as their home.
Press California

We need to better enforce laws meant to protect victims
Officer Tara O'Sullivan was gunned down after only one year on the job. Her murder is a devastating loss for her family and community. It is also a tragic end to her chosen path of serving others. Early reports indicate the suspect had a history of domestic violence that may have prevented him from ever having a gun to fire. We all know domestic violence is dangerous for the victims themselves.
Sacramento Bee

Proposed reform of California bail system needs more study
California Senate Bill 10, passed by the California legislature and signed by California's governor in 2018 provides for a drastic change in pretrial detentions of criminal defendants. The bill eliminates the cash bail system and replaces it with a risk assessment system with the goal of providing information on whether the defendant is likely to re-offend or not show up for court on the original criminal charge.
Visalia Times Delta

Property owners, shelter residents seek to block settlement on homelessness
Property owners and residents of shelters on skid row are going to court to block a legal settlement that restricts Los Angeles' ability to clear homeless encampments in the heavily blighted downtown district, it was reported Friday. In a petition to intervene in the case, property owners and residents argue the settlement "will only extend and worsen the (homelessness) crisis we are facing in this city," the Los Angeles Times reported.
NBC Palm Springs

LAPD commander on armed police drones: 'That will not happen'
Commanders of the Los Angeles Police Department's nascent drone program faced questions from police commissioners and suspicion from privacy activists in a rowdy meeting Tuesday, the first step in making flying robots a permanent part of the department's SWAT and bomb squad teams.
Los Angeles Daily News

FBI, ICE find state driver's license photos are a gold mine for facial-recognition searches
Agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have turned state driver's license databases into a facial-recognition gold mine, scanning through millions of Americans' photos without their knowledge or consent, newly released documents show.
Washington Post

Policy & Legal Issues

New study adds to debate over racial bias in algorithms widely used in courtrooms
In this data-driven era, if you've been arrested it's increasingly likely the judge deciding whether to send you home or to jail to await trial will consult actuarial math. Specialized algorithms - called risk assessment tools - plumb your history, demographics and other details to spit out a score quantifying how likely you are to commit another crime or to show up at your next hearing. But these tools have come under fire for treating people of color more harshly.
The Marshall Project

Summit of mental health experts recommends reforms after cluster of suicides by Chicago cops
The Chicago Police Department must make fundamental changes in the way it cares for the mental health of its officers, particularly as it faces a recent cluster of suicides, and needs to go beyond what is required by a pending federal court order. That was one of the conclusions from mental health experts gathered in Chicago recently for a wellness

summit.
Chicago Tribune

California cops are withholding public records despite new law saying they can't
Sexual assault in jail. Domestic violence complaints against an officer ignored. Knocked out teeth followed by a cover up. Throw in tens of thousands of stolen bullets, an illegal choke hold, falsified police reports, and cavorting with sex workers and you've got an emerging picture of what California's new police transparency law has revealed in its first six months.
KQED

Los Angeles police chief vows to erase homeless people's warrants
Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said he is working to eliminate thousands of homeless people's old warrants for minor offenses in the coming weeks as part of a solution to help get people off the streets. "This is a humanitarian crisis of our generation," Moore said Wednesday in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press. "This matches any other calamity that this city or this region or this country has seen. It is, I believe, a social emergency."
AP

Starbucks, police turn comms into love fest after Tempe episode
Starbucks had a crisis over the Fourth of July weekend involving the treatment of customers who happened to be police officers. The company handled the situation well - as did the police department and the police union. In fact, the communications became something of a love fest. It's a good example of how you can reach a positive outcome from a negative beginning.
Crisis Response Pro

Los Angeles County

Authorities ordered Palmdale child removed from home weeks before death
A court order to remove a 4-year-old boy from his parents' Palmdale home was issued about two months before the child died under what authorities said were suspicious circumstances, it was reported Friday. The order was issued on May 15 after a Department of Child and Family Services caseworker filed the request to remove Noah Cuatro from his parents' custody, the Los Angeles Times reported.
City News Service

L.A. County bolsters support for families of DIS victims
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to have mental health personnel take the lead in reaching out to the families of individuals who are shot by sheriff's deputies or die in jail, in the face of

community complaints about a perceived lack of respect and transparency from sheriff's officials. Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Sheila Kuehl co-authored a motion to implement a network of services for families, including crisis intervention and grief counseling, as well as funds to assist with burial costs.
My News LA

A response to some of my critics: Sheriff Alex Villanueva
It was with disappointment that I read Patrisse Cullors' op-ed of July 1. I met Ms. Cullors during the campaign and listened to her concerns about the interaction of vulnerable populations with law enforcement. I share her concerns. It's one reason I campaigned on a platform of "Reform, Rebuild, and Restore." As sheriff, it has been and continues to be my mission. Six months into office, my staff and I have done much to improve public safety for all county residents irrespective of their immigration status.
Alex Villanueva/Los Angeles Daily News

LA Sheriff Villanueva rehired a deputy who is now being called unfit to wear a badge and gun
L.A. County's Office of Inspector General said in a report Tuesday that evidence it reviewed "clearly establishes" Sheriff's Deputy Carl Mandoyan is unfit to wear a badge and gun, pointing to the fact that he engaged in domestic violence against a girlfriend and lied about it to the department's internal affairs investigators. The report is the first independent review of Sheriff Alex Villanueva's decision to rehire Mandoyan, who served as a key aide to Villanueva during his campaign for office last year.
LAist

The Banditos and other LA Sheriff's Deputy groups are now being investigated by the FBI
The FBI has opened an investigation into a secret clique of L.A. County sheriff's deputies known as the Banditos, all of whom are or were assigned to the East L.A. Station, two sources with knowledge of the investigation have told LAist. The agency has indicated it is looking into other cliques in the department as well, the sources said. FBI agents have interviewed several deputies, inquiring about whether the Banditos encourage criminal conduct, such as planting drugs on suspects, the sources said.
LAist

How the Manson killings gripped Los Angeles
A maid called the police at 9 a.m. on Aug. 9, 1969, after finding five dead people in a Beverly Hills home. There was a blond woman on the living room floor, a rope wrapped around her neck and stab wounds in her swollen belly. A bloodied corpse wore a hood; another was behind the wheel of a car. Two more were sprawled on the lawn about 50 feet

apart. A neighbor recalled hearing shots around midnight.
New York Times

Opinion: What will it take to get the L.A. County Sheriff's Department to obey the law?
A law enforcement agency that doesn't obey the law? That would be the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The state legislature last year passed a law - Senate Bill 1421 - the requires law enforcement agencies to release records of police use of force and misconduct. That law, which took effect in January, was expected to dramatically increase transparency in a state that has had the most restrictive laws in the nation when it comes to disclosing records of public safety officer misconduct, which includes use of force or sexual misconduct.
WEHOville

Wrongful death suit accuses Ed Buck of human trafficking, engaging in revenge porn
Prominent political activist Ed Buck is facing new legal troubles as the mother of a man who died in his home has filed an amended civil suit accusing Buck of human trafficking and engaging in revenge porn. "The new amendment is about making sure no box is left unchecked when it comes to all of the crimes that Ed Buck has committed," Jasmyne Cannick, an advocate for the family of 26-year-old Gemmel Moore, who was found dead of a drug overdose in Buck's home in 2017.
CBS LA

Consumer

Attention shoppers: Watch for fakes on Amazon Prime Day
Shoppers at this year's Amazon Prime Days (July 15 and 16) could spend more than $5 billion during the sale period that has been extended from last year's 36-hour extravaganza to 48 hours this year. The longer hours also mean that more Amazon shoppers might sign up for the company's $119-a-year Amazon Prime service and drives up the chances that more people could be buying counterfeit goods.
24/7 Wall St.

Fake Samsung update app installed by more than 10 million users from the play store
We have heard about a number of counterfeit apps on the Google Play Store that have duped users and made loads of money by pushing ads. In the latest reveal, CSIS Security Group's report suggests that an app named 'Updates for Samsung' promising updates for Samsung phones has been installed by over 10 million users. Once installed, the fake app redirected users to an ad-farm that charged money for downloading the update.
Tech2

Customs agents crack down on fake goods

When you think of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE for short, the immigration side is what usually comes to mind. But what about the customs side? It's a branch of ICE many people haven't heard of. It's called Homeland Security Investigations or HSI. Their job is to enforce customs law. That can mean investigating anything coming in and out of the country, whether it's people or goods.
Click Orlando

District attorney warns Kern County residents of illegal price gouging following earthquakes
Kern County residents are being warned by District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer about illegal price gouging or charitable solicitation fraud following last week's earthquakes just outside of Ridgecrest. In a press release on Monday, Zimmer reiterated that businesses and individuals are prohibited under California law from raising prices for 30 days after an emergency declaration.
The Bakersfield Californian

Crime

'John Doe DNA' from 1992 matched to California rape suspect
California prosecutors said Monday that they used an unusual tactic to identify a suspect for three rapes committed more than 25 years ago, keeping the case alive long after the normal legal deadline would have expired. Investigators tucked away rape kit samples from the attacks between 1992 and 1994 in the Sacramento and Davis areas in hopes that the budding science would one day lead to a match.
AP

The most common crime against females in LA: abuse from an intimate partner
The number one crime reported against female victims for the past four years the City of Los Angeles was intimate partner simple assault. That's when a current or former partner, co-parent or cohabitant physically attacks a victim without a weapon, and doesn't cause serious injury, according to California law.
Crosstown

Brutal assault of a 12-year-old during carjacking attempt at ATM
A report of an attempted carjacking on July 1st at approximately 7:20 AM prompted an immediate response from San Bernardino County Sheriff's Central Station Deputies. They encountered a young victim with significant injuries to her face in the Bank of America parking lot at 22365 Barton Road. The anonymous victim's father described the terrifying incident which began right after he parked his car, then walked up to the ATM.
Crime Voice

Crime continues to drop in California. Here are the numbers for

your county
Most violent and property crimes fell last year, continuing an ongoing decline in California, according to statistics released this month by the state Attorney General. The trend toward a less violent society is not consistent across every region, but overall - and with a few exceptions - people are committing fewer crimes per capita today than a decade ago. It's true for nearly every crime category tracked by the California Department of Justice.
Sacramento Bee

California / National

Digital Jail: How electronic monitoring drives defendants into debt
On Oct. 12, 2018, Daehaun White walked free, or so he thought. A guard handed him shoelaces and the $19 that had been in his pocket at the time of his booking, along with a letter from his public defender. The lanky 19-year-old had been sitting for almost a month in St. Louis' Medium Security Institution, a city jail known as the Workhouse, after being pulled over for driving some friends around in a stolen Chevy Cavalier.
ProPublica

There's a Democratic civil war brewing over decriminalizing migration
A string of former Obama administration officials have railed against 2020 hopeful Julián Castro's call to decriminalize border-crossing, highlighting a widening split between the progressive primary field and parts of the party establishment. During the Democratic primary debate last week, Castro challenged the rest of the 2020 field to adopt a proposal that would allow the civil immigration enforcement system to have exclusive legal control over border-crossing violations.
HuffPost

5 things to know about new California criminal reform program
California has a new pilot program on criminal justice reform, thanks to millions allocated in the new state budget. The program is designed to reduce the number of people returning to prison by having crime victims meet with the people who harmed them. The program is called Restorative Justice. Here are 5 things to know about the diversion program.
KCRA

Use of California assisted death law dropped in 2018
California health officials say 337 terminally ill people took drugs to end their lives last year, down from 374 in 2017. The California Department of Public Health reported Tuesday that 452 people received prescriptions under the law. That's down from 577 people in 2017, the first full year after a law made the option legal. The advocacy organization

Compassion & Choices said a judge's temporary suspension of the law last year during an ongoing lawsuit likely caused the decrease.
AP

Las Vegas police fire officer who says he "froze" in hotel hallway during massacre
Las Vegas police confirmed that the department fired a veteran officer who froze in the hallway of a Las Vegas Strip hotel during a 2017 mass shooting as a gunman on the floor above opened fire on a country music festival. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department spokesman Officer Larry Hadfield confirmed Tuesday night that Officer Cordell Hendrex was fired March 20.
CBS/AP

Corrections

Cop killer dies in San Quentin prison cell
A death row inmate who was convicted of killing a Southern California cop and assaulting two other police officers died at San Quentin State Prison, state officials announced Monday. John George Brown, 71, was found unresponsive at 6:18 p.m. Sunday in his cell and pronounced dead at 6:47 p.m. at the prison in the unincorporated town of San Quentin in Marin County.
Mill Valley Patch

CDCR: 25 inmates involved in Salinas prison riot
The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is investigating what set off a riot at a Salinas prison involving more than two dozen inmates on Monday. Officials said the riot began at around 6:30 p.m. and involved 25 inmates fighting one another at Salinas Valley State Prison's Facility C dayrooms. According to CDCR, responding staff ordered involved inmates to stop fight multiple times, and used non-lethal rounds and pepper spray to end the riot.
KGET

Removal of Calif. inmates to leave room for Arizona ICE detainees
The departure of California prison inmates from an Arizona correctional center is expected to leave more room for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees. The Casa Grande Dispatch reports that up to 2,500 beds at the La Palma Correctional Center could be available for ICE detainees after California announced plans in June remove their inmates.
AP

Grand jury report finds mental health staff in jail 'not able to provide an adequate standard of care'
The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury's investigation concerned the delivery of mental health care by the Humboldt County Correctional

Facility (HCCF) in light of five decisions made by the United States Supreme Court and California legislators and voters. The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, enacted in the early 1970s, resulted in an increase in the number of mentally ill people who are placed in jail because there is nowhere else for them to go.
Press Release

Prisoners escape Cal Fire work duty, get caught in Amador County, officials say
Three inmates who escaped while clearing brush for Cal Fire on Tuesday were captured around 12 hours later after a search in Amador County, according to state prison officials. Before they walked off, the prisoners had last been seen around 11 a.m. on work assignment near Mitchell Mine Road, about three miles from Pine Grove Conservation Camp east of Sacramento, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said in a news release on Tuesday.
Sacramento Bee

Sentences/Convictions

L.A. County sheriff's detective pleads guilty to sexually assaulting 15-year-old girl
A Los Angeles County sheriff's sex crimes detective pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl in the Camarillo area in October 2017, prosecutors said. Neil Kimball, 46, of Agoura Hills, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Ventura County Superior Court to felony lewd act on a child and felony unlawful sexual intercourse, said Senior Deputy District Attorney Patrice Koenig.
Ventura County Star

Not your usual taqueria order: Man with burrito-shaped meth packages gets 15 years in prison
Some days, nothing sounds better than stuffing your face with burritos from your favorite fast-food chain - and the 14 foil-wrapped packages in Ricardo Renteria's SUV looked good enough to eat. But instead of 7-Layer Burritos from Taco Bell or Epic Carne Asada Burritos from Del Taco filled with bean and cheese goodness, authorities said the packages held only one ingredient: about a pound each of methamphetamine.
Palm Springs Desert Sun

Nursing assistant gets seven years in prison for sexually abusing patients
A former nursing assistant who was a fugitive for more than a decade after being charged with sexually abusing female patients at a Tarzana hospital was sentenced Tuesday to seven years in state prison and ordered to register as a sex offender for life. Ramon Eduardo Rodas Gaspar, 50, pleaded no contest June 7 to four felony counts of sexual battery by fraud and one felony count of sexual penetration of an unconscious person, according to Los Angeles County Deputy District

Attorney Kelly Kraetsch.
City News Service

Marilyn Monroe statue thief gets jail time
The Monroe statue that topped the Ladies of Hollywood gazebo at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue was reported missing on June 16. Clay was arrested June 21 at his home. Police said they found evidence, just not the statue, which was sawed off the top of the gazebo that also depicts Mae West, Anna Mae Wong, Dolores Del Rio and Dorothy Dandridge and celebrates film actresses representing different cultures who helped change the movie business.
Deadline

California man jailed 31 years for keeping teen girl captive
A man has been sentenced to 31 years jail for imprisoning a teenage girl in a metal box at his Northern California marijuana farm. Ryan Patrick Balletto is one of two men charged with holding the 15-year-old captive and was sentenced yesterday. The girl, who had run away from home, was sexually abused by both men and required to help prepare the illicit pot for sale before she was rescued in 2013, authorities said.
AP

Homeless

San Francisco: More homeless living in vehicles
Most homeless people in San Francisco sleep in parks and on sidewalks but a growing number are living out of their vehicles, helping fuel an overall 17% increase in homelessness in the last two years, according to a report released Friday. San Francisco tallied about 8,000 homeless in its one-night count in January, when counties across the country conducted similar counts as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
AP

Residents fed up with Venice 'vanlord' who's renting vans for homeless to sleep in overnight
People who live in a Venice Beach neighborhood are fed up with homeless people renting vans to sleep in that take up parking spaces. In the stretch on Riviera Avenue near Grand Boulevard, three vans come back registered to the same person: he's known as the "vanlord." Neighbors said he rents them out for as much as $300 a month, moving them from street to street.
NBC4

Guns

Setting sights on the AR-15: After Las Vegas shooting, lawyers target gun companies
For years, advocates of gun control have struggled to pierce a legal

shield that protects firearms manufacturers from liability, even as gunmen in mass shootings have relied on their powerful wares to amplify the carnage of their attacks. More than a decade ago, New York City failed in its bid to go after some gunmakers under public nuisance laws.
New York Times

San Luis Obispo gun advocates take aim at new law restricting ammo sales
A new California law restricting the sale of ammunition took effect last week and San Luis Obispo County gun advocates are firing back at what they call a misguided attempt to curb crime. The law, which took effect July 1, requires people buying ammunition to pay $1 to complete a background check at the point of sale before purchasing ammunition.
KSBY

Pensions

California cities, counties spent $4 billion on overtime in 2018
Duties of a principal security officer with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power: Direct officers who patrol and safeguard buildings and their occupants. Supervise investigations of accidents, thefts and disturbances. Possess good judgment. The city's job description doesn't mention the opportunity to clock serious overtime, but it's there. Principal security officer Ricardo Frias made more in overtime pay than any city or county worker in the entire state of California last year.
Orange County Register

CalPERS returns 6.7 percent for the year, driven by fixed income
The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) reported a preliminary net return on investments of 6.7 percent on Thursday. This is compared with the $370 billion retirement system's 8.6 percent return during the previous year. "While we did not achieve our 7 percent actuarial return target this fiscal year, I can't stress strongly enough that we are long-term investors," said Yu (Ben) Meng, CalPERS' chief investment officer, in a statement.
Institutional Investor

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